

1819

Bishop, Artemas

Died 1872.

See Monthly Vol. 1, No. 8.

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Reminiscences of Old Hawaii by Sereno
Edwards Bishop (son of Artemas Bishop)

The Advertiser Historical Series, No. 1.

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(Contains portrait & home of Artemas Bishop)

no

ARTEMAS BISHOP, '19

b. Pompey Hill, N. Y., Dec. 30, 1795; U. C., 1819; (24); ord. evang. Cong.
Assoc. New Haven, Ct., Sept. 12, '22; miss. Hawaiian Islands, '22-56; p.
Ewa, Haw. Is., '56-62; d. Honolulu, Haw. Is., Dec. 18, 1872.

From: Princeton Theological Seminary Catalogue 1819-1820.

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CLASS OF 1819--Artemas Bishop.

The following references are taken from "A Residence of Twenty-One Years in the Sandwich Islands" by Hiram Bingham Published 1847.

The last Sabbath in April, 1823, was made peculiarly joyful to the missionaries and their Hawaiian friends, by the safe and opportune arrival of new fellow-laborers, the first reinforcement of the mission from the United States.

The new missionary company, Messrs. Richards, Stewart, Bishop, Chamberlain, and others, assembled at New Haven, Conn., with many members and coadjutors of the American Board, and thence embarked in the autumn of 1822, amid the varied demonstrations of the sympathy of the friends of Opukahaia and of the heathen. President Day addressed the people, and Rev. Mr. Bardwell the missionaries; Mr. Evarts delivered the instructions of the Prudential Committee, and Mr. Richards preached from the text, "Surely the isles shall wait for me." The missionaries, their directors and relatives, and many of the people of the city assembled ~~at~~ the wharf, and there poured forth their earnest aspirations for the salvation of the Hawaiian race, and their loud hallelujahs to their Redeemer in the strains of a prophetic song anticipating the speedy conversion of the islands. The kind people of New Haven endeavored to cheer on the laborers in various ways, and contributed for their outfit \$1334.00.----They embarked on the 19th of November, on board the "Thames", Capt. Clasby; and enjoying favorable weather, and the kindness of the captain and officers of the ship, through the voyage, they came to anchor in Honolulu roadstead, April 27th, 1823,--158 days from New Haven. (Beginning on page 186 and continued thru part of page 190.

Messrs. Thurston, Ellis, Bishop and Goodrich being deputed by the mission, and accompanied by Mr. Harwood, made a tour through, and round Hawaii, for the purpose of exploring the ground, preaching to the people, making them acquainted with our object, and reporting the comparative claims and advantages of the different parts of the field for missionary labor, and for new stations. This service was, in the course of the summer, accomplished with care and toil, and manifold advantages, the narrative of which was soon given to the public, in an interesting volume, chiefly drawn up by Mr. Ellis. page 190.

A description of Mr. Bishop's trip round Hawaii in the latter part of 1825 and the early part of 1826 is given on page 289.

Death of Mrs. Bishop on February 28, 1828 page 329.

Mr. Bishop's work at Kaawaloa is given on page 333.

Mr. Bishop is mentioned as taking charge at Ewa in 1837. page 500.

ARTEMAS BISHOP.

Was born at Pompey, N. Y., December 30, 1795. Graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary 1822 and was ordained at New Haven, Conn., September 12, 1822. He embarked in the ship "Thames", at New Haven, November 19, 1822 and arrived at Kailua, Sandwich Islands, March 11, 1824; removed to Ewa, on Oahu, in 1837; there until 1863, when increasing infirmities led to his removal to Honolulu.

His first wife, was Elizabeth Edwards who was born in Marlborough, Mass., June 1797. Married November, 1822. She embarked November 19, 1822. Died at Kailua, February 21, 1828. A son, Sereno E. Bishop, was Principal of the Lahainaluna Seminary. Born at Kailua in Feb. 1821. Educated in United States.

His second wife was Delia Stone, from Rochester, N. Y. She was born in Bloomfield, N. Y., May 26, 1800. She embarked in the ship "Parthian" at Boston, Nov. 3, 1827 and labored as a teacher until her marriage at Kailua, December 1, 1828.

 When Bishop first came to the Sandwich Islands, he found the natives in a state of great ignorance, and he had frequent opportunities for addressing assembled natives; and was surprised to find, where there were schools, that every kind of work and diversion was laid aside on the Sabbath, and that wherever there was a teacher capable of taking charge of a meeting, people assembled freely for prayer. In his whole tour, he saw but one man intoxicated; whereas, only two years before, in his tour with Mr. Hall on nearly the same route, it was common to see whole villages given up to intoxication." pages 51 and 52.

"After the national convocation at Kailua in October, 1826, Mr. Bishop visited Kawaihewa, whose districts north of Kailua, where the inhabitants of the districts of Kawaihewa and Kawaihewa were assembling to meet the regent and other chiefs. He there preached twice to a congregation of more than ten thousand people, - the largest audience, it is believed, that ever assembled on these islands for Christian worship." page 54

"The missionary force on the islands, in the spring of the year 1828, was as follows: Messrs Thurston and Bishop were stationed at Kailua...." page 54.

"The translation of the whole Bible into the Hawaiian language was completed on the 22d of February, 1833, a few days more of nine-
 then years from the time when the mountains of Hawaii were first seen from the deck of the Thaddeus (ship of first mission)." Mr. Bishop is mentioned as one of the translators.

The following references to Mr. Bishop's work are taken from the "History of the Mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to the Sandwich Islands" by Rufus Anderson Published Revised Edition 1874.

"The first reinforcement of the mission arrived in the ship 'Thames', in the spring of 1823. It consisted of the Rev. Messrs. Bishop, Richards and Stewart...." They were kindly received by the government, and the King addressed a note to the Captain, commending him for bringing the new teachers, and remitting his harbor fees." page 24.

"Late in 1825 and early in 1826, Mr. Bishop performed a preaching-tour of three hundred miles around Hawaii, starting from Kailua, and going northward. The population of the island he estimated at 60,000. The stations then and subsequently occupied by the mission, were all embraced in this route. The exceedingly varied and picturesque scenes through which he passed, many of which came, long afterwards, under the eyes of the writer, cannot be here described. Now he was in a frail canoe beneath a tall cliff overhanging the sea; then climbing dangerous steeps; then descending into deep and lovely valleys filled with native hamlets; now crossing dark ravines, then confused masses of rough scoria; and so on, for the space of a month. He had frequent opportunities for addressing assembled natives; and was surprised to find, where there were schools, that every kind of work and diversion was laid aside on the Sabbath; and that wherever there was a teacher capable of taking charge of a meeting, people assembled freely for prayer. In his whole tour, he saw but one man intoxicated; whereas, only two years before, in his tour with Mr. Ellis on nearly the same route, it was common to see whole villages given up to intoxication." pages 61 and 62.

"After the national convocation at Kailua in October, 1826, Mr. Bishop visited Kawaihae, some distance north of Kailua, where the inhabitants of the districts of Kohala and Hamakua were assembling to meet the regent and other chiefs. He there preached twice to a congregation of more than ten thousand people, -the largest audience, it is believed, that ever assembled on those Islands for Christian worship." page 84

"The missionary force on the Islands, in the opening of the year 1828, was as follows: Messers Thurston and Bishop were stationed at Kailua...." page 84.

"The translation of the whole Bible into the Hawaiian language was completed on the 25th of February, 1839, a few days short of nineteen years from the time when the mountains of Hawaii were first seen from the deck of the Thaddeus (ship of first mission)." Mr. Bishop is mentioned as one of the translators.

CLASS OF 1819--Artemas Bishop.

"The small-pox invaded the Islands early in 1853, and was dreadfully fatal in certain districts. Mr. Bishop, who encountered every risk to save his people, reports the deaths in Ewa of twelve hundred out of a population of twenty-eight hundred. Nearly one half of the eight hundred church members were victims of the pestilence. From morn to night the missionary visited the sick and dying, lying helpless on the ground, where, in most cases, they were destitute of every comfort, except such as he carried th them, and administered with his own hands. For a while it was difficult to find persons to bury the dead. But some were found willing to undertake the task for the large reward; and when they could not be found, friends performed the duty, of course at the risk of their lives. Many in this way contracted the disease. The indications of decay were so rapid, that immediate interment was necessary. A hasty grave was dug near the place; the body was rolled in its clothes and mats, and without ceremony was hurried to its last resting-place. For three months there were no funerals, no mourners. A short prayer was sometimes made over the grave, but very seldom, as no one dared to approach the place except the grave-digger. The number of sick in the district, at one time and for more than three months, was not less than three hundred, and the deaths averaged from twenty to thirty a day." pages 260-261.

At the Jubilee held in Honolulu in June, 1870, Rev. Mr. Bishop, of the first reinforcement, and then the oldest male missionary on the ground, gave his reminiscences. This was June 14. On June 15, Mr. Bishop gave one of the addresses. He spoke in the Hawaiian language. pages 345, 351.

REV. ARTEMAS BISHOP, '19

One after another, the venerable laborers, whose lives of faithful service have done so much for the people of the Sandwich Islands, are passing away. The death of Mr. Bishop, one of the second company who went as Missionaries to those islands, was mentioned in the "Herald" for February. The notice of his life is gathered from a sermon preached at Honolulu, on the Sabbath after he died, by Rev. Dr. Damon:----

"The Rev. Artemas Bishop was born in Pompey, N. Y., December 30th, 1705; hence, in a few days, he would have been seventy-seven years old. He graduated at Union College in 1819, and at Princeton Theological Seminary, in 1822. After marriage with Miss Elizabeth Edwards, of Boston, he embarked in November, 1822, at New Haven, with the first reinforcement of Missionaries destined for these islands. Among his associates were the Rev. Messrs. Richards and Stewart, Mr. C. Chamberlain, and several others. At his embarkation a large concourse assembled, and then was sung, for the first time, the hymn written by William B. Tappan, which has been so oft repeated:--

"'Wake, Isles of the South! Your redemption is near,
No longer repose in the borders of gloom.'

"The company landed at Honolulu on the last Sabbath of April, 1823, and Mr. Bishop was stationed at Kailua, there to become the associate of the Rev. Asa Thurston. Having acquired the language, he became associated with Mr. Thurston in the work of translating the Bible. Together, they translated the books of Genesis, Numbers and Deuteronomy, and the Epistles of Paul to the Romans and Galatians; while alone, he translated the 2d book of Samuel and the 1st of Chronicles.

"After remaining about twelve years at Kailua, he removed to Ewa, on the island of Oahu, where he labored for about twenty years with great usefulness and success. While residing at this station, he translated 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and many other books. His accurate knowledge of the Hawaiian language always gave him authority in all matters involving questions of criticism and translation. His fondness for study, reading, and literary pursuits was preserved to the very close of his career. He was wont to take cheerful views of life, ever looking on the bright side of all subjects. There was a golden thread of quiet humor interwoven into the texture of his mind. Solomon says, 'A man that hath friends, must show himself friendly.' He was one of those friendly, genial and companionable men whose presence does not chill, but warms society.

"It is quite remarkable, that with the rapid tide of travel rushing past our islands, he never should have left them after his arrival, except on a visit as delegate to the Marquesas Mission, in 1858. He never rode upon or saw a railroad, or witnessed the operation of the telegraph. Few men, however, were better acquainted with the progress of scientific discovery. Emphatically might Goldsmith's description of the Vicar, in the 'Deserted Village,' apply to him, while officiating, for nearly forty years, as a missionary at Kailua and Ewa:--

"'A man he was to all the country dear,
And passing rich with forty pounds a year;
Remote from twon he ran his godly race,
Nor e'er had changed, nor wished to change his place.
Unskillful he to fawn, or seek for power,
By doctrines fashin'd to the varying hour:
Far other aims his heart had learn'd to prize,
More bent to raise the wretched than to rise.'

2. (Rev. Artemas Bishop)

" It is quite impossible not to admire the life of such a veteran Missionary, who left his country fifty years ago, and after voyaging around Cape Horn, settled down among the Hawaiians to learn their language, assist in reducing it to a written form, and then spent a long lifetime in preaching and laboring among this people. His thoughts have become their thoughts. By means of the sermons which he preached, books and hymns which he wrote and translated, and above all, by the life which he led, his own life-thoughts have become interwoven and intertwined with the life-thoughts and literature of Hawaiians.

"As a minister of the gospel, he necessarily made the whole Bible his life-study, but when he ceased from the active duties of the ministry, and enjoyed time for calm reflection and meditation, his mind dwelt almost exclusively upon the prophetic parts of Scripture and especially upon the Book of Revelation. It afforded him unspeakable satisfaction to contemplate the future triumphs of the gospel as unfolded in these prophetic portions. He had no doubts and misgivings upon the subject, but from his extensive reading of history, and the progress of the nations in science, art, religion and civilization, he confidently anticipated the universal spread of Christianity over the whole earth."

From: Munsell's Annals of Albany
Vol. 9 p. 260

"A Brief History of the Translation of the Holy Scripture into the Hawaiian Language" by A. Bishop, in The Friend, August 1, 1844, pp. 74-75.

One of the best known of the early dairy farms was conducted at Ewa, Oahu, by the Rev. Artemas Bishop, the Protestant missionary at that place.
p. 242.

"The Influence of Christianity upon Paganism,"
in Hawaiian Spectator, I, (July, 1838, 276.
p. 296

The American Frontier in Hawaii
Harold Whitman Bradley
Stanford University Press
1942.

ARTEMAS BISHOP:

One of the best known of the early dairy farms was conducted at Ewa Oahu, by the Rev. Artemas Bishop, the Protestant missionary at that place. Footnote p. 241.

The Rev. Artemas Bishop asserted that the introduction of Catholicism would be "the greatest calamity" that could befall thousands of the Hawaiian people." p. 296

On one occasion the Rev. Artemas Bishop hastened from Ewa to Honolulu to protest against the punishment of a group of Catholics from Waianae--a protest which was made in vain. p. 297

The American Frontier in Hawaii
The Pioneers 1789-1843
Harold Whittman Bradley
Stanford University Press
1942.

Son of Sylvanus and Rachel Spicer Bishop, was born at Pompey, Onondaga County, N.Y., December 30, 1795. In the year 1812 he moved with his parents to Oswego, N.Y., where they had taken a large tract of land. At this time Oswego was only a trading post and had no church. In the year 1816 his parents with others organized the First Church (Presbyterian). This church is standing at the present time.

He was graduated from Union College in 1819 and Princeton in 1822 and was ordained a Minister at New Haven, Conn., Sept. 12, 1822. In November, 1822, he married (1) Elizabeth Edwards, born at Marlboro, Mass., and educated at Bradford.

On November 19, 1822, they sailed from Boston of the sail ship "Thames" with six others missionaries for the Sandwich Islands, now known as the Hawaiian Islands. They arrived at Honolulu April 27, 1823, after a passage of 158 days.

February 28, 1828 Elizabeth died at Kailua, Hawaii. The hardships of early missionary life proved too much for this gentle soul.

Their children were:

1. Jane Elizabeth, b. Apr. 6, 1825; m. Herman Hillebrand and d. July 18, 1904.
2. Sereno Edwards, b. Feb. 8, 1827; m. Cornelia A Sessions, May 31, 1852; d. March 24, 1910.

December 1, 1828, he married (2) Della Stone, born at Bloomfield, N.Y., May 26, 1800, and also arrived at Honolulu March 30, 1828 with the third company of Missionaries.

As a missionary he was very successful in converting the natives to the Christian faith, and he labored many years in reducing the native dialect to a written language and in the translation of the Bible and other religious works to that language for use of the natives.

Rev. Artemas Bishop died in Honolulu, H.I., Dec. 18, 1872 and his second wife, Della Stone, died at the same place April 13, 1875.

(Following this extract are four pages of a diary kept in 1823-25 by himself and wife Elizabeth.)

Bishop Genealogy

pp. 69-70

The Richard Bishop Family Assn.
1933.

Rev. ARTEMAS BISHOP, A.M., 1819, of Sandwich Island, was a member of the
Adelphic Society
Adelphic Catalogue 1830
(Died: 1872)

Artemas Bishop

1819

AB

Artemas Bishop 1819
A.B.